

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 IO-14 DRC-01

EUR-25 EA-11 /174 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8636

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, SA, AF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: KABUL 5594

1. AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER ALI AHMAD KHURRAN AND DELEGATION DEPARTED SAUDI ARABIA SEPT 7 AFTER FOUR DAY VISIT. KHURRAN HAD TWO LONG MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SAUDI CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION HISHAM NAZER. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE KHURRAN TOLD THE PRESS THAT AN AGREEMENT OR PROTOCOL HAD BEEN SIGNED WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD INVITED HISHAM NAZER TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN AND NAZER HAD ACCEPTED.

2. FONOFF DIRECTOR OF EASTERN AFFAIRS AHMAD SIRAJ INFORMS US THAT SAG GAVE AFGHANISTAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS TO BE SPENT FOR ECONOMIC AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE ADDED THAT HIS OSTENSIBLY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS GIVEN FOR POLITICAL REASONS. AFGHAN DELEGATION HAD APPARENTLY PLAYED THE THEME THAT AFGHANISTAN IS HEMMED IN AND POTENTIALLY THREATENED BY THE
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USSR, CHINA AND OTHER NEIGHBORS AND IS IN NEED OF SAUDI

FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT.

3. SIRAJ WAS DUBIOUS THAT HIS \$10 MILLION WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AT LEAST OF A BILATERAL NATURE. WITHOUT NECESSARILY MEANING TO INCLUDE AFGHANISTAN SIRAJ WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SAG HAS NO MEANS OF MONITORING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, MUCH OF WHICH -- ESPECIALLY TO AFRICAN STATES -- IS KNOWN TO END UP IN SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS. INCREASINGLY, THEREFOR, SAUDIS INTEND TO GIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THROUGH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK.
AKINS

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